

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /084 W

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R 161340Z APR 75 ZFF BERLIN

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4395

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, JO, KN, YO

SUBJECT: INCREASED EASTERN BLOC REPRESENTATION IN JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 2427

1. JORDANIAN FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL HASSAN IBRAHIM INFORMED US APRIL 16 THAT JORDAN EXPECTS YUGOSLAVIA, EAST GERMANY AND NORTH KOREA (LATTER AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL) TO OPEN RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN AMMAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. IBRAHIM SAID THAT HE IS NOT SURE HOWEVER WHAT NORTH KOREAN REACTION WILL BE TO NEWS THAT SOUTH KOREANS (REFTEL) ARE ESTABLISHING EMBASSY BEFORE THEY DO. IBRAHIM THOUGHT THERE POSSIBILITY NORTH KOREANS MIGHT BACKTRACK AND NOT OPEN EMBASSY. HOWEVER, IF NORTH KOREANS GO THROUGH WITH ESTABLISHMENT, IBRAHIM SAID HE HOPED TO DELAY THEIR ACTUAL OPENING SO AS TO
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AVOID EMBARRASSMENT OF HAVING SOUTH AND NORTH KOREANS

OPENING AT SAME TIME. HE SAID SOUTH KOREANS ARE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN NEWSPAPER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOUTH KOREA IN JORDAN. IBRAHIM DISCOUNTED THIS AS A REAL ISSUE SINCE, HE SAID, JORDAN UNLIKE MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES DOES NOT HAVE A LARGE COMMUNIST POPULATION THAT SUCH MATERIAL WOULD INCITE.

3. COMMENT: JORDANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RETICENT TO VOLUNTEER ANY COMMENTS ON MOTIVES BEHIND SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN GOJ RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN RECENT WEEKS (INCLUDING RECEIVING SEVERAL SOVIET DELEGATIONS AND CURRENT VISIT BY ROMANIAN PRESIDENT). MOST COMMON REMARK (ALSO MADE BY IBRAHIM) IS THAT JORDAN WISHES ABANDON ITS FORMER ISOLATION AND PLAY A LARGER ROLE ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THEY SAY THIS MEANS EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES AS WELL AS WITH NON-COMMUNISTS.

SUDDARTH

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NNN

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